

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, GH
SUBJ: GHANA CELEBRATES TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

1. CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF LT. GEN. F.W.K. AKUFFO TOOK THE SALUTE FROM MORE THAN 8,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN AND MEMBERS OF BOY SCOUTS, RED CROSS AND OTHER VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS DURING MARCH 6 PARADE MARKING GHANA'S TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. IN LACKLUSTER SPEECH READ ON BEHALF OF HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG, AKUFFO URGED GHANAINS TO REAFFIRM FAITH IN THE COUNTRY AND REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO SERVICE OF THE NATION.

2. PARADE DREW LARGE CROWD WHICH FILLED BLEACHERS OF INDEPENDENCE SQUARE NEARLY TO CAPACITY AND WHICH APPLAUDED REPEATEDLY DURING TWO HOUR MARCHING COMPETITION BY SECONDARY SCHOOL DRILL TEAMS. HOWEVER, AKUFFO HIMSELF RECEIVED VIRTUALLY NO APPLAUSE WHEN DRIVEN AROUND SQUARE IN LAND ROVER TO INSPECT FORMATIONS OF MARCHERS.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE INTERMITTENT RAINS, PARADE CAME OFF REASONABLY WELL FROM AN ORGANIZATIONAL POINT OF VIEW BUT SHOMEHOW LACKED ANY SENSE OF REAL CELEBRATION. IN TRUTH, GIVEN PARLOUS STATE OF THE ECONOMY HERE -- DUE ALMOST
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ENTIRELY TO THE RAPACITY AND MISMANAGEMENT OF THE ACHEAMPONG REGIME -- GHANAIS HAVE VERY LITTLE TO BE THANKFUL FOR THESE DAYS. COOL RECEPTION GIVEN TO AKUFFO UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS THIS FACT. AT LARGE EVENING RECEPTION LATER SAME DAY, GEN. ACHEAMPONG WAS LIKEWISE COOLY RECEIVED BY ASSEMBLED GUESTS. AN ATTEMPT BY ONE ADMIRER TO STIMULATE THREE ROUSING CHEERS FOR THE CHIEF OF STATE AS HE DEPARTED THE

HALL COLLAPSED WITH AN EMBARRASSING THUD. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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